



HISTORY OF
EDWARD TEANCUM MURDOCK
MILLICENT SOPHIA MURDOCH
AND
BERTHA MAYHO JEFFS



Millicent Sophia Murdoch (Gentle) was born August 21, 1874, to John Murray and Ann Steele Murdoch. She was their fifteenth and last child. She may have received her nickname because of her complexion, or because she was a "gentle" woman.

Gentle was a happy, delightful child, blessed with the gift of singing. The gospel was very dear to her and strengthened her throughout her life. She often bore her testimony through song.

Edward Teancum Murdock was born June 26, 1872, in Heber City, the fourth child of Bishop Joseph Stacy and Pernetta Murdock. Bishop Murdock's first wife, Eunice, was childless. He bought two Indian children through Porter Rockwell to save their lives. Eunice raised these two children, a boy, Pickett, and a girl, Pernetta. When Pernetta grew to womanhood Bishop Murdock and Eunice became very concerned over her welfare and future and sought Brigham Young's counsel. He told Bishop Murdock to marry the Indian girl, Pernetta, as a plural wife. Five children were born to this couple, Benjamin Sweet, Betsy Eunice, Albert Alma, Edward Teancum and Franklin Judson.

As a boy Edward was not husky and strong. His father would say to him, "Now, Teddy it is time to take your tar and milk." He and his brother Frank played the accordin on many occasions. Edward played the guitar and violin and was an excellent singer.

Through their musical abilities and willingness to perform, Edward and Gentle were drawn together and on December 9, 1891, they were married in Heber City. Although the two names are pronounced the same, there has been no genealogical relationship found.

Edward and Gentle lived in a small home one block from her parents so she could help her mother. Their first child, Murray Stacy, was stillborn. Nine other children were born to this couple; Edward Phares, April 11, 1894; Arthur, June 7, 1897; Clarence, January 1, 1900--the first baby born in the state of Utah both for the New Year and the century; Pernetta (Nettie), December 18, 1901; Annabell (Ann), April 18, 1904; Joseph Stacy, July 27, 1906; John Murray, February 17, 1909; Alma Robert, February 28, 1912; and Barney, July 13, 1941.

The family home was always filled with music. Gentle kept a clean and organized home but she always had time to play with Ed and the children.

Arthur, the second son, records in his diary, "Our home had an organ. Father would play the fiddle and guitar. Everyone in the family could sing and we would make the rafters of the old house raise up after supper about every evening. Those were the best days of our family life."

Alma, the second youngest son, says, "My dad ran our family with the fiddle bow. He sat by the window while playing the fiddle so he could keep an eye on us kids. When he would see us getting out of line, he would rap on the window with the bow. That was a signal to us that we were doing wrong. My dad was a quiet man, he did not tolerate violence. His eyes were sharp; he missed nothing. He never whipped us, he didn't have to. We knew things were going well and when they weren't by the way he played the fiddle."

Arthur continues, "As the family grew from three or four to nine it got past a joke. We really became crowded. The older boys had to make an extra bedroom outside in a tent. It would get quite cold in the winter but we enjoyed it all."

"My mother was a wonder. It will always be a mystery to me how she could make ends meet. How it was possible to set a full table for a big family day in and day out. My mother had the faith of Job. She would always say, "Everything will be all right, just do the best you can." As younger children the neighbor kids would call us half-breeds, we would run home and tell mother. Just tell them, 'sticks and stones will break your bones but names will never hurt me. She was continually telling the older boys to be honest and always tell the truth. When I would tease the younger children, mother would give me some good raps with a dish cloth, or anything she had in her hand, that would quiet me down. When my father was home every child was quiet and stayed in his place. He always had good order in the home but I never saw him lay a hand on one of the children in my life."

Alma says, "I do not remember my mother but Aunt Net (Nettie McMullin) told me she was a pretty little woman, a good singer, and she could imitate people. My sister, Nettie, told me that my mother was sandy complected and she was small in stature. She had blue eyes and that my brother Joseph looked more like my mother than any in the family. Clarence said that she was very religious and that she led the singing in church. When she was younger, she would lift her skirts and run foot races with the kids and they had to go some to beat her. Aunt Betsy told me that my mother nursed one of her babies because she (Aunt Betsy) couldn't. To me she was one of the best women on this earth."

Art tells of his dad, "I never did hear him tell much about his younger years. As I became older I went with him several times to the reservation. I was always tickled to go with him. I never did know what my dad did for a living. I know he used to deal in wild horses--he would bring bands of horses in from the reservation, ship them out in carloads, or sell or trade them around the valley. He loved horses. He always had good horses--buggy, riding, and a few pretty good running horses."

"My father always liked to see his boys in athletics. He was a good country ball player in his day. I have seen him pitch some nice ball. He liked to watch his boys play ball. No matter how good or how bad you played, he never said anything about it, just took it for what it was."

Alma writes, "My dad was a patient man. When I was small, he would throw the ball to me back and forth until I learned how to throw and catch a ball. 'Never drop the ball if you can help it.' 'Throw straight and never take your eye off the ball.' He told me once if you can't say good things about people say nothing. My father was a good-looking man, a clean man, a musical man, a good athlete, a proud man, a family man and one of the best checker players in Wasatch County. He was a deep thinker. He loved to train horses and race them."

Clarence says, "We always had a camp of Indians by our place. They didn't bother anyone, but my dad always visited with them. He was always gone somewhere trading horses with the Indians and anyone who wanted to trade. He worked quite a bit in the blacksmith shop with his brother, Frank. He was a good fixer, painter, and horse shoer. I used to go with him and help."

On February 7, 1916, Millicent Sophia died. Clarence records, "One night it seemed like a dream, my mother just took sick and Net, Ann, and I went in her little bedroom and she went to sleep. But I know since that she had a bad hemorrhage and died." The death certificate gives cause of death as cerebral apoplexy. Gentie had been attended by Dr. Wherrett since the birth of her last child, Barney, eighteen months previous.

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Of this time Arthur writes, "It was a brand new era. Life changed for every member of the family. The father tried to hold the family together for some time and he did quite well--but you could feel it breaking slowly apart. The older boys had to get out more or less on their own. I didn't get to finish my last year of high school. I got a job making fence. I would give a little to the family, but not like I should. Clarence and Phares were the main providers. Then Phares got married. The bulk of taking care of the children was left almost solely on Clarence. He did a good job."

On March 1, 1916, Edward took the children to the Salt Lake Temple with Mary D. Ryan acting as proxy for Milliecent, and they were sealed to each other and the children to their parents.

Barney, the youngest child, eighteen months old, went to live with Frank and Stella Murdock, Ed's brother and wife. He was a fine singer. At the age of fourteen he was in a bus accident and bumped his head behind the ear. This eventually caused his death on April 12, 1929 of a brain abscess.

Alma, the next youngest child, was taken by Aunt Betsy Blackly, Ed's sister, and her husband Tom. They lived on the east side of Heber and made a good home for Alma. However, he would get lonely and run away from them going back down to the old house to play with Joe, John M. and the neighbor kids.

Clarence, Joe, John M., Nettie, and Ann lived at the old home. Art says, "The little girls were good cooks, clean housekeepers. I have seen as many as twenty shirts on the line. Those little girls scrubbed them out on the washboard by hand, and they were done first class."

Joe tells that things were not easy for the family. One winter he and John M. lived on bread made by the neighbor lady with lard spread on it like butter. (Ann and Net were both away working and in school and Clarence was attending the agricultural college at Logan.) John M. had shoes to wear but they were both for the same foot. Things were tough for them so they slipped up to Aunt Betsy's while she was in southern Utah and raided her larder for something to eat.

On June 25, 1924, Edward Murdock married again to Bertha Mayho. She was born in Blackburn, Lancashire, England on June 13, 1885, to Henry and Elizabeth Howsan Mayho. She had previously been married to William Gothorn Jeffs on July 6, 1904. They had five children: Mark Mayho, Theora, Mardene, Harry Mayho, and Helen. They were living in Provo and during the flu epidemic of 1918 William Gothorn Jeffs died November 12, leaving Bertha a widow with five small children.

The following is from Forever Ours the personal family history of Bertha Mayho Jeffs Murdock.

"In 1920, I became acquainted with Edward Teancum Murdock. I sometimes waited on Ed when he came to shop at the Mercantile. I soon discovered he was a widower with nine children. Ed was a very talented musician. He could take any instrument and in no time have it mastered. He played the violin, piano, and banjo in a band that he and a few of his friends had formed which played for many of the dances and doings in the Valley. Ed and I dated for about two years before he asked me to be his wife. There was a large range between his children's ages. Some were quite young and some were planning to be married before we were.

"We arranged to be married June 25, 1924, in the Salt Lake Temple without the sealing ordinance as part of the ceremony. Somehow the officiator misunderstood that I had been sealed to my first husband and should therefore not be sealed to Ed. He proceeded with the wedding ceremony and without a pause sealed me to Ed.

"After my marriage to Ed, I quit work at the Mercantile. I stayed home with the children and worked our one quarter acre. We raised a large garden and ate or canned all of the food we grew. We had two hundred and fifty laying hens that provided us with eggs for our family as well as eggs to sell for cash. Our Jersey cow provided our family with milk and lots of rich cream. There was always extra cream which we sold. Ed worked at many odd jobs such as working in the welfare department or as a farmer or musician in the band. On October 10, 1925, our son Edward Thomas Murdock was born.

"Through my marriage to Ed I became acquainted with wonderful Indians. With Ed, I was allowed to go to their Hunting Grounds. A good friend of Ed's was old Chief Johnnie Dunken. He would come to Heber from the reservation to get supplies and visit. Ed's land on the White Rock Reservation and the land of Chief J. Dunken joined together. They had spring water on their lands and could irrigate anytime they wanted.

"In 1929 the stock market crashed and threw the entire country into a depression. The 13th of November 1929, our son Bert Murdock was born.

"Every fall the Indians came to Heber to get supplies. Old Ephraim Panavitch and his wife Susan, and Johnny Dunken and his son Willie would always come and stay at our place. We tried and tried to get them to sleep in the house because there was plenty of room. They always refused. Old Ephraim finally confessed that they were afraid of falling off the bed!

"In the early part of 1937, Bert, our son, became ill with scarlet fever. With such a contagious disease we had to be so careful to scrub everything that he came in contact with. Ed and I decided to open up all the windows; scrub the walls and floors; wash the drapes and rugs; really clean. We had worked for several days when Ed took sick. He climbed up on the chair to hand the drapes. Right now he said, "I feel very ill. I must have something to eat to get my strength back." After eating things became worse. He went straight to bed. That Friday night he could not hold anything down. By 5 a.m. he was in the Heber hospital. On Saturday the doctor said he could do nothing for him and referred us to a specialist in Salt Lake City. We left for the city that afternoon. Ed lived in agony for the next four days. About Tuesday morning the doctors decided to operate. They found that one foot of the large intestine was gangrenous. They removed that section hoping his condition would improve. Ed slumped into a coma and passed away the 12th of March 1937. He was buried in Heber Cemetery."



EDWARD TEANCUM MURDOCH - SECOND FROM LEFT

FAMILY PICTURES OF EDWARD T. MURDOCH



BACK ROW: BARNEY, ALMA, CLARENCE, ARTHUR AND JOE, KNEELING: EDWARD TEANCUM MURDOCK WITH EDWARD THOMAS ON HIS KNEE.

TAKEN IN 1926



FRONT ROW: CLARENCE, JOHN M., BERT, EDWARD, BACK ROW: JOSEPH, ARTHUR, ALMA, PHARES AND UNCLE FRANK

PICTURES OF MILLICENT S. AND EDWARD T. MURDOCK FAMILY



ARTHUR, NETTIE, CLARENCE AND PHARES



MILLICENT - ANN STEELE
MURDOCH AND PHARES



LEFT TO RIGHT: NETTIE, JOSEPH S. MILLICENT, ANNABELLE
EDWARD T. MURDOCK, CLARENCE AND ARTHUR



EDWARD T. MURDOCH, 1903
HEBER BASEBALL TEAM

ALMA
NETTIE —
JOE
1922

